



The Idaho IBM-PC Users Group

IBM PC Users Group
P.O. Box 9136
Boise, Idaho 83707

NEWSLETTER



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Idaho IBM-PC Users Group Newsletter

Vol 1 number 8

October, 1985

NEXT MEETING

Date : Tuesday, October 15
(the third Tuesday)

Time : 7:00pm

Place: Borah High School
: B-Wing Room 126

A LOTUS 1-2-3 SIG

For those of you who signed up for a Lotus 1-2-3 SIG, help is on the way. Tim Wolf has generously agreed to lead the Special Interest Group and to share his interest and expertise in the Lotus and Symphony software.

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PC-Talk: A Review

Written by Allen Powell

PC-talk is perhaps one of the finest telecommunications programs available for IBM or compatible computers. It is distributed as a 'freeware' program by Headlands Press, Inc. If you are not familiar with the freeware concept, it is a method of selling software used by some free thinking individuals in an attempt to reduce the cost and receive maximum exposure. It works like this: If you think the program is useful then send them some money, \$35 in PC talk's case, if not then don't, but in either case pass the program along.

PC Talk's major strength is its ease of use. Most commands used in the program consist of a two key combination; the ALT key and usually the first letter of the desired
(continued next page)

Initially, Tim intends to direct the SIG towards the new, or intermediate users. Later, as the group progresses, he will move into the more advanced aspects of this software. As an added bonus for us, he'll continue writing his series of tutorial Lotus routines for the Newsletter.

At the next meeting, we'll finalize the meeting time for the SIG, based upon the time the most members will be able to attend. If you are interested, and have not yet signed up, either call and give us your name or be sure and attend the next meeting so we can get you on the list.

GROUP PURCHASES

As mentioned at the last meeting, we are currently able to purchase Printer Ribbons at a very reasonable price. Our supplier handles only Epson and Okidata ribbons and the most expensive of these are available to our members for less than \$5.50 each, a considerable savings. We are still seeking ways to better serve our members, and if you have any ideas or requests--let us know.

Our group maintains the Gem State Data BBS IBM-PC SIG. There are about 50 programs available for downloading. Data line 375-2243.

PC-Talk: A Review

(continued from previous page)

action, i.e. ALT-C=clear screen, ALT-V=view a file, etc. If your memory is like mine though, you'll appreciate that the 25th line of the screen shows 8 of the more frequently used commands and a continuously running clock. If that isn't enough to jog your memory, then a pop down help screen listing all the commands is available by hitting the home key.

Ease of use is important, but if PC-Talk wasn't as powerful and flexible as many other telecommunication programs costing a great deal more it wouldn't be the stand out that it is. Flexible? Just about every program default setting; from Baud rate to screen color, can be adjusted to suit your equipment or your way of doing things. PC-Talk comes originally configured for the Hayes modem command set, but can be made to work with just about any type available. I even got it to work with my very non-Hayes Tandy internal modem! Powerful? PC-Talk supports XMODEM error checking protocol for binary upload/downloads as well as regular ascii text transfers. It allows for programming the 10 function keys with strings of text and/or commands for automatic sign on or frequently used command sequences. Also, if your modem supports auto dialing you may use the programs 60 entry dialing directory to store the numbers and communication parameters of your favorite people or BBSs. There are more features like character stripping and replacement, transmission pacing, and auto-redialing, but you'll have to read the excellent 70+ page manual that comes on disc with the program to find out more. If you have a modem or you are planning to purchase one, then by all means get this wonderfully useful program from our club library.

D I S C O U N T S

The following individuals and local merchants are offering discounts to all registered members.

Entre' Computer Center is graciously offering a firm 15% (and even up to 20% depending) on ALL stock in the store.

CompuShop is offering a 10% discount off the normal CompuShop retail price on all stock to registered 1PUG members.

Bruce Burns (R&L Data) is personally extending a 15% discount off everything in the store, except the AT line, to all registered members. Note: you must deal directly with Bruce.

Borbaki Inc. will sell their Directory Command System called iDir (pronounced wonder), which normally retails for \$95, for \$75 to club members. Thanks to Chris & Cindy.

EXCHANGE from IBM

If you missed the September meeting, you also missed out on receiving a copy of EXCHANGE, an informational newsletter from IBM PC User Support in Boca Raton, Florida.

EXCHANGE is an excellent source of information for those of us with IBM and compatible computers. Included is information from IBM pertaining to their new products, and technical information from other IBM User Groups on languages, hardware, software, and applications as well.

This is a professional quality monthly newsletter, and we'll have only a limited amount of these to hand out at the meetings. If you didn't get one, you may check-out our archive copy from the Group Publications Library and peruse it.

=====

FILE SQUEEZING/LIBRARYING

One of the buzzwords of the day is BACKUP. In technical articles, company directives, and even in the documentation for most commercially developed software, we are continually advised to utilize proper backup procedures to insure against a tragic loss of important data.

What, you might ask, does this have to do with file squeezing and unsqueezing? The back-up procedure normally results in full disks or tapes, which in some cases, are kept for extended periods in this form.

What File Squeezing procedures do for us is allow us to keep more (sometimes as much as 70% more) data on one of these archive diskettes or tapes. This can allow a considerable savings in the amount of magnetic media required to keep your archive files intact.

Normally, the greatest savings comes when the data is in text format. For instance, our Public Domain Software Catalog was quite unwieldy, (about 140,000 characters) and took up a considerable portion of a diskette. However, after we squeezed the file, it was reduced to approximately 47,000 characters. This allowed us to place the entire catalog on a disk, along with the squeezing/unsqueezing utilities and our indexing utilities.

Those of you who use a modem for business or hobby file transfer will immediately see the advantages of file squeezing. A file which may be reduced to half of its original size will transmit over the modem in half the time. If you are paying Long Distance rates, squeezing can save you money! Note: XMODEM protocol or some other error-checking binary transfer protocol is

SQUEEZING, Cont..

recommended for Squeezed files. PC-TALKB, available from our Library or from our IBM SIG on GEM STATE DATA ACCESS, readily transfers files of this type.

While there are many fine file compression program sets available, we are presently using SQPC128.EXE for the Squeeze file, and its partner program, NUSQ11.EXE to unsqueeze them. These programs are resident in the Group Library, and are available for your copying pleasure.

Another type of file management utility which you might not be aware of is the Library/Unlibrary program.

This is a program set which makes it possible to save several programs under one name and later, extract all, or any of them for use.

For instance; this allows you to save a series of text files or database files which relate to one subject or application into one file. Now, you may archive them or transmit them via modem as a single file. Can you squeeze them for further efficiency? I thought you'd NEVER ask! Yep, the entire set of programs may then be squeezed to make the file smaller and more easily transportable.

The set we have in the Group Library is named LUB6.EXE. It is a single program which does both the Library and Unlibrary functions.

Since several of our members have asked me about this subject, we will have a demonstration of these programs at our next meeting. I think you will find these utilities well worth your time.

Rich Chambers, Librarian 939-9120

NEW Q & A COLUMN

Got a PC problem that's been driving you bats? Or, do you have a question which you always wanted to ask, but were reluctant to appear backward in front of a computer "expert?" Well, here's a forum for your questions and problems. Address questions/requests for enlightenment to:

THE QUERY COLUMN
C/O The Idaho IBM-PC USERS GROUP
P.O. Box 9136
Boise ID 83707

We see questions relating to IBM and compatible hardware, software, and communications as fair game. Questions will be fielded by local experts or, if necessary, by technical personnel from IBM or other sources. The questions, with answers will be published in the Newsletter under this column heading. No, we won't use your names, however if you wish a rapid reply I'd suggest that you include your name and phone number. Otherwise, you'll have to wait until the next newsletter is published.

Questions and answers which are deemed to be of interest to the general IBM and compatible computing community may also find their way to our IBM SIG's "Tips and Techniques" board on GEM STATE DATA's BBS.

QUERY:

Looking at my DOS SYSTEM disk, I find several programs which are not covered in the DOS manual. For instance, what is ANSI.SYS used for?
Boise, ID

RETURN:

You obviously missed the last meeting, where the September issue of IBM's User Support Newsletter, EXCHANGE was passed out to those in attendance. In this issue, IBM's Steve Malhum provided an excellent explanation of ANSI.SYS and the means of utilizing it.

Briefly stated, the ANSI.SYS program is a keyboard driver which comes with DOS 2.0 and higher. Its uses include: reassigning keys on your keyboard, controlling the screen position of your cursor, changing the prompt you see on your screen, and for setting screen attributes. It performs these actions by interpreting escape codes generated from the keyboard (by pressing "Esc" or as part of a PROMPT command), and acting upon them to perform the desired command.

For instance, to change the colors on your color monitor to a black background with green letters, you may type the following:

```
PROMPT $e[40;32m
```

Here;

\$e[ansi's Esc set
40	code for black bckgrnd
;	command separation code
32	code for green forgrnd
m	functional carriage return

You could even assign Macro's to your keyboard keys using this system. If you wished to assign "Dir c:" to your F1 key, you could type:

```
PROMPT $e[0;59;"Dir c:";13p
```

Here;

\$e[is ansi's Esc set
0;59	addresses Key #59 (F1 Key)
"Dir c:"	the new value for Key# 59
;	command separation code
13p	the carriage return set

After completing this operation, when you press the F1 key the command "Dir c:" will appear on the screen and you will promptly see a directory of your C: drive.

Before this system will operate on your terminal, you must create a
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COMMUNICATIONS CORNER
Written by Mike Hayhurst

As summer has drawn to a close, and with a hint of winter just around the corner, it's time when one can slow down the pace and take time to smell the roses. For me it's time to get back into the groove and write an article for the Users Group. This month I will address the TROJAN HORSE of the BBS's and some of the precautions we all should take.

WARNING! DANGEROUS PROGRAMS

I just found the following file on a bulletin board. It's difficult to believe that people can be this vicious. Please do everything you can to spread the word.

The file:

===== BULLETIN #1 =====

The following 2 Articles I got from 2 magazines (I will give the reference at the end of the article), and I thought that you might like to see this.

WARNING!

Warning: Someone is trying to destroy your data. Beware of the SUDDEN upsurge of "Trojan Horse" programs on Bulletin Boards and in the public domain. These programs purport to be useful utilities, but, in reality, they are designed to sack your system.

One has shown up as EGABTR, a program that claims to show you how to maximize the features of IBM'S Enhanced graphics Adapter, and has also been spotted as a new super-directory program. It actually erases the file allocation tables on your hard disk. For good measure, it asks you to put a disk in Drive A:, then another in Drive B:. After it has erased those FATs

too, it displays,

" Got You! Arf! Arf! "

Don't run any public-domain program that is not a known quantity. Have someone you know and trust vouch for it. ALWAYS examine it FIRST with DEBUG, looking for all the ASCII strings and data. If there is anything even slightly suspicious about it, do a cursory disassembly. Be wary of disk calls (INTERRUPT 13H), especially if the program has no business writing to the disk. Run your system in Floppy only mode with write protect tabs on the disk or junk disks in the drives.

Speaking of Greeks bearing gifts, Aristotle said that the unexamined life is not worth living. The unexamined program is not worth running.

- The Editors of PC
July 23, 1985
Volume 4, Number 15

===== BULLETIN #2 =====

Another bit of information I got from the ARPANET: Be careful what you put into your machine. There is out there making the rounds of the REMOTE BULLETIN BOARDS a program called VDIR.COM. It is a little hard to tell what the program is suppose to do.

What it actually does is TRASH your system. It writes garbage onto ANY disk it can find, including hard disks, and flashes up various messages telling you what it is doing. It's a TIME BOMB: once run, you can't be sure what will happen next because it doesn't always do anything immediately. At a later time, though, it can CRASH your system. Does this remind you of
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DANGEROUS PROGRAMS

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some of the imbecilic copy-protection schemes threatened by companies such as Vault and Defendisk? Anyway, you'd do well to avoid VDIR.COM. I expect there are a couple of harmless-perhaps even useful-Public Domain programs floating about with the name VDIR; and, of course, anyone warped enough to launch this kind of trap once, can do it again. Be careful about untested "Free" software.

Computing at Chaos Manor
From the living Room
By Jerry Fournelle
BYTE Magazine,
The small systems Journal

Well there it is, If you happen to see any of these files on this, or any other RBBS, LBBS, FIDO or any other board, PLEASE leave the SYSOP a message and let him know about the file. I will list 2 other files that I am aware of that will also do damage as has been reported in the past:

1. STAR.EXE presents a screen of stars then copies RBBS-PC.DEF and renames it. The caller then calls back later and d/l the innocently named file, and he then has the SYSOP'S and all the Users passwords.
2. SECRET.BAS This file was left on an RBBS with a message saying that the caller got the file from a mainframe, and could not get the file to run on his PC, and asked someone to try it out. When it was executed, it formatted all disks on the system.

We must remember, that there are a few idiots out there who get great pleasure from destroying other peoples' equipment. Perverted I know, but we, the serious computer users must take an active part in

fighting against this type of stuff, to protect what we have. Be sure to spread this bulletin to other Boards across the country so that as many people as possible will be aware of what is going on. Thanks a lot!

On to a lighter note. The BBS for this month is one of the largest in the country, over 3000 files. Its only available through a subscriber fee, but that fee is very nominal. It cost either \$35 per year, or \$10 for three months. This comes to nine and one half cents per day at the yearly rate. Even I can afford that, and they seem to have the latest version of software.

The BBS is called "The Business Knowledge Exchange for IBM Personal Computers" and has Bob Mahoney as its SYSOP. They have a 10 line frontend which means you will hardly ever find the telephone busy. The number is (414) 964-5160 with support for 300bps, 1200bps, and 2400bps.

You can logon and brows but no downloads are allowed until you register. I have been signed up since July and the following are some of files I have down loaded:

QMDM109A.ARC	QMODEM 1.09A Comm.
PC-WRITE.ARC	PC-WRITE V2.55 WP
ARC430.DOC	Archive Util- Doc
ARC430.COM	Archive Util- Pgm
ATDLAB.LBR	AT Adv. Diagnostics
PC-VT81.LBR	V8.1 VT100 Emulator
XMODEM.LBR	VAX XMODEM used with PC-VT81.LBR (FORTRAN)
ZAXXON.COM	The real ZAXXON by SAGA.
PC-GRAPH.LQR	Jim Button's addition to PC-FILE
PCF30_1.LQR	PC-FILE 111 V3 1 of 3
PCF30_2.LQR	PC-FILE 111 V3 2 of 3
PCF30_3.LQR	PC-FILE 111 V3 3 of 3

As I said there are over 3000 files to choose from and that's very impressive to say the least. That's all for now, but we all hope to see you out to our next meeting. -end

The Big Picture Written by Bob Flagg

Computer graphics is perhaps one of the most exciting and fastest growing fields in computer science today. While many think of computer graphics only in terms of video arcade games, a PC with graphics capability can be a powerful tool for business, science, education, and the arts. A largely un-tapped market, the growth of the number of different application of computer graphics is limited only by imagination. This article is the first in a series (I hope) on wonderful world of computer graphics.

The first rule of any writer is to remember his audience. Writing above or below the experience level of the reader is an oversight that will earn the author a following of bored, disinterested readers. Such a problem is especially acute if the subject matter is as complex as computer graphics can sometimes be. To compound problems, the IBMPCUG's members have a very broad range of computer skills. Fearing I have no alternative, I am going to make this column a rather strange hybrid of the technical and non-technical aspects of computer graphics. At worst, you will all be bored; At best, I won't. Alas, some articles - especially the ones explaining graphics algorithms - will be almost incomprehensible to those individuals with no programming experience.

In this column I hope to shed some light on many different aspects of graphics. In addition to my primary interest - graphics algorithms - I would like to use some articles to explain, in simple terms, how most computer graphics **hardware** works. And, for those of you who have neither an interest in hardware or programming, I'm going to include news on application programs that I think are worthwhile.

In addition to software, I'll try to fit in reviews (usually product descriptions) of the dozens of hardware devices available that aid in graphics development and application.

In addition to my rather verbose techno-babbling, I would like this article to be a forum for any graphics related questions our readers may have. If you have a question, just write it down and send it to Robert Flagg, 1515 N. 10th St., Boise, ID 83702. If your question is urgent, please include your phone number and I'll call you right back. Otherwise, I will re-print both the questions and answers in this column.

I'd like to take the remaining space I have left to talk about the many uses of computer graphics, the problems associated with displaying an image on a computer, and the revolutionary role of the PC in computer graphics.

As far as I have been able to determine, there are only three general types of graphics software (I challenge anyone to come up with a different category). Note that I am not talking about uses of graphics software; I'm talking about the three common categories that any program employing graphics can be reduced to: Program development tools, presentation graphics, and user interface software. Program development tools consist of that body of software that allows programmers to create graphics based applications. Presentation graphics is a very broad category of software that allows users to represent data in a visual format. Presentation graphics would include software such as Lotus 123, PC Storyboard, all CAD/CAM (Computer aided design and
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GRAPHICS

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Computer aided manufacture), and many other products. Presentation graphics represents, by far, the greatest market segment in graphics. "User interface" graphics software embodies the greatest asset computer graphics has to offer - the ability of visually represented concepts to confer to a computer user more information than would be possible by mere text. Examples of "user interface" software are DRI's "GEM" operating system, the Macintosh operating system, and all computer games.

The uses for computer graphics are both interesting and endless. For mathematicians, the ability of a computer to display complex formulas visually and economically has totally revolutionized the field of mathematics and numerical analysis. Today's computer graphics are also saving lives by drastically changing the capabilities of medical science to discover and treat illnesses.

Specifically, three dimensional modeling programs are helping medical researchers duplicate the structures of viruses like rhinoviruses (common cold) and thus, find cures. The computer science field of image analysis has also aided medical research and practice by using the computer to enhance the pictures created by X-rays, ultrasound, and cat-scans. The performance and safety of the machines we use every day - like cars and planes - are being improved by the use of CAD/CAM. And, on the darker side, super-secret organizations like the NSD and NSA (National Satellite Office and National Security Agency) use their Cray supercomputers to scan the massive quantity of pictures the USA's spy satellites take. On a more pleasant note, computer graphics are being used in many ways by geologists and

environmentalists to preserve and enhance the great outdoors. Computer designed ski resorts are very popular now; By mapping the terrain and trees, ski run designers are now able to create great ski runs and cause a minimum of environmental disruption.

Alas, I feel I'm running on a bit. Next month I'm going to try to talk about how your computer stores graphics information and how animation is created on a PC.

THIS MONTH'S NIFTY TIDBIT: If ya' find yerself at home with nuthin' much to do and ya' get a hankerin' fer some ice-cream, get on down to the SWEET SHOPPE on State street - they got a real neat little bit of advert' running on a PC-jr that they created with PC-Storyboard. -end

HARDWARE/SOFTWARE REVIEWS

Have you purchased any good hardware or software lately? If so, why don't you share your experiences with others in the group?

We accept product reviews on both hardware and software, and will publish both positive and negative reviews. So, if you are ecstatic with the product, OR feel that you got stung, let us know. We'll get the word out to others in our group and the computing community.

Address reviews to:

The Idaho IBM-PC Users Group
P.O. Box 9136
Boise, Id 83707

Note: For obvious reasons, all reviews must be accompanied by your name and phone number. If you wish to remain anonymous, advise us, and when we publish we'll leave your name out of the article.

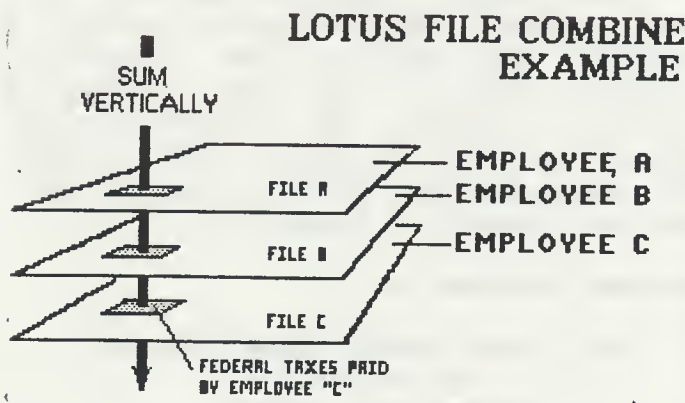
LOTUS 123
3 DIMENSIONAL ARRAYS
USING FILE-COMBINE COMMANDS:
By Tim R. Wolf

Although spreadsheets are generally thought of as two dimensional arrays, Lotus is capable of handling 3 dimensional arrays in a fairly unique way.

The way to build a 3-dimensional array is to build multiple spreadsheets which are identical (2 dimensions by definition) and overlay them on top of each other (see illustration 1.) As these files are stacked on top of each other, the numeric values in all corresponding cells are summed.

Illustration 1 shows a cell, which could be the Total Federal Taxes paid by an employee. If this value is located in cell c13 for all employees, then all values in each file would be in the same relative positions. When added together, they will equal the total Federal Tax paid by all employees.

(illustration 1.)



To begin a quick and easy example, you will have to build 4 simple spreadsheets: each will be identical except for data.

The first spreadsheet is called "GENERAL" and it's sole purpose in

life is to hold and control a Macro and to store a template for the next three files. All resultant calculations will be in the "GENERAL" file. Files A, B, and C are employee data files in a payroll system.

Building the "GENERAL" file: (See illustration 2) As before, type all date fields (col A7) as character data, that is '07/15/85 - note the single quote. Gross pay is pure data that you input. Naturally you could add an additional 2 columns which could be Hours-Worked and Hourly-Pay; then the Gross-Pay would be the formula (Hours * Rate).

Because I am Truly lazy, lets cheat and make the Columns Federal Tax and State-Tax formulas so they approximate a tax structure and save us a lot of typing. Cell c7 (Federal Tax @ 07/15) should be +b7 * 0.12 or 12% of Gross-Pay for that month. Cell d7 (State-Tax) should be the formula b7 * 0.045 or 4.5% of Gross.

Net-Pay (f7) for the month is easy, take (Gross - Fed - State -any additional Deductions) or in Lotus, +b7-c7-d7-e7. The Deductions column is for employee draws on a paycheck and it is also raw data.

Once all of the formulas in row 7 are entered, simply copy them down, all at the same time, through the entire data range. The command is [slash] Copy {from} c7..f7 {to} c8..f11.

The Total lines are built by typing a character string of hyphens (a double quote followed by a series of '-'). The summation formula in cell b13 is @sum(b12..b6). Note that is encompasses the underline just entered and the title at the top of the column. This allows easy row insertions anywhere in the data range without having to rebuild the summation formulas.

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Next copy the underline and the formula in cells b12..b13 horizontally across the bottom of the data range. Your sheet should look exactly like the illustration below.

(illustration 2.)

A1: 'FILE:GENERAL
 LOTUS GENERAL FILE: CONTAINS MACRO IN CELL H3. RESULTS ARE PLACED HERE.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	FILE:GENERAL					
2	FIRST QUARTER					
3						
4	EMPLOYEE NAME: SUMMARY FILE					
5						
6	DATE	GROSS	FED	STATE	ADDITIONAL DEDUCTIONS	NET
7	07/15/85		0.00	0.00		0.00
8	08/15/85		0.00	0.00		0.00
9	09/15/85		0.00	0.00		0.00
10	10/15/85		0.00	0.00		0.00
11	11/15/85		0.00	0.00		0.00
12						
13		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14						

Save this file as "GENERAL".

Now, using GENERAL as a template, enter random numeric data in the Gross Pay column and in the Additional Deduction Column. Once the spreadsheet is filled, SAVE it as "EMPLOYA" - Not as GENERAL!.

Continue the process by retyping over the data columns, thus building and "EMPLOYB" and "EMPLOYC" file.

(illustration 3.)

IMPROPER POSITIONING OF "EMPLOYA" DURING A FILE-COMBINE:

CELL A1 OF GENERAL					
A4					
	A4	CELL A1 OF EMPLOYEE A			
CELL C7					

After the 3 data-files are built, FILE-RETRIEVE a clean copy of GENERAL and begin writing a quick macro in cell h1. This macro will

create the 3 dimensional array that will show totals for all employees.

In cell h1, type this character string: ALT-C. This label will remind you which key to press to begin the macro. In cell h2, type another descriptive label such as "FILE-COMBINE - PAYROLL DATA". These two cells have no bearing on the actual macro, they serve only as documentation.

Starting in cell h3, type the following string:

{GOTO}A1~

RANGE-NAME this position [\C].

This positions the cursor in cell A1 of GENERAL. This importance of this can not be over stressed. If your cursor is in cell c7, for example, the first employee file (A) which is overlayed on GENERAL will align itself as shown in illustration 3. If this was the case, cell a4 of employee A would add with cell C7 of GENERAL; this is clearly not the proper intent.

The Macro, in full is:

h3: {GOTO}A1~
 h4: '/FCAEemploya~
 h5: '/FCAEemployb~
 h6: '/FCAEemployc~
 h7:

Each line reads: Slash, File, Combine, Add, Entire-file, your filename and return. Engage the macro by typing ALT-C. Looking at your results, you can see that the array has been completed and all values add vertically within each cell. This one spreadsheet contains all detailed data by weekly pay period and totals of the entire company.

This example of File-Combine was fairly straight-forward

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Lotus 123: 3 dimensional arrays
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because it only deals with entire files and because the positioning of the combined files was always cell a1. These are not restrictions imposed by Lotus.

In actuality, you can combine files in any position - for what ever reason you need - even though I would be hard pressed to find a reason (see illustration 3 and associated text).

Also, you are not required to File-Combine Entire files. You may combine specific Ranges of data. For example, only combining the first section of a spreadsheet while leaving the remaining formulas intact.

File-Combine is a quick and efficient way to get summary data from multiple, detailed spread sheets. If each employee had his own payroll spreadsheet with 52 weeks of data in the file, then a simple macro could be written to combine the files and provide summary data for the company or division as a whole.

The summary data could tell exactly how much FICA tax you have withheld to-date and what your year-to-date payroll has been, etc.

If your employee base gets too large (above 30), this method will become cumbersome in both the Data-entry area (having to Retrieve 30 files for the weekly payroll) and in the processing time for the COMBINE (apx. 7 minutes).

Next month I will explore the Idaho Tax tables and provide an accurate method of calculating State and Federal Taxes by using the Vertical-table Lookup facilities that Lotus provides. -end

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:ANSI.SYS
(continued from page 4)

file called CONFIG.SYS and place it on your boot (DOS) diskette if it doesn't already exist. You can use your text editor to create this file and then enter:

```
DEVICE = ANSI.SYS <return>
```

or from DOS you can type:

```
COPY CON: CONFIG.SYS <return>  
DEVICE = ANSI.SYS <return>  
Ctl Z <return>
```

That's it. The CONFIG.SYS file directs DOS to utilize the ANSI.SYS driver at bootup. Now, reboot using this diskette. When this is done, the ANSI.SYS program begins driving your keyboard, and the capabilities mentioned above become available to you.

Because of space limitations, I've only skimmed the capabilities of ANSI.SYS. I'll copy the Ansi.sys article from the Sept. EXCHANGE and mail it out to you. In addition, there have been several informative articles about the ANSI Driver in the past four issues of PC magazine. Hope this answers your QUERY.

Rich Chambers

WHERE TO WRITE

Idaho IBM PC Users Group
P.O. Box 9136
Boise, Idaho 83707

Questions concerning the group can be directed to any of the following people:

Editor:Bob Robles	342-7250
Librarian:Richard Chambers	939-9120
Treasurer:Tom McIntyre	344-7194

You can also communicate with us via the IBM-PC SIG (Special Interest Group) on Gem State Data Access BBS at 375-2224

SEPTEMBER MEETING INFO.

The September meeting played host to a fairly small, but active group. First, we had an interesting and informative demonstration on the Leading Edge Model "D" personal computer where member Bruce Burns, of R&L Data, put it through its paces. Following a short intermission, we were treated to a demonstration of SMART, an integrated software package featuring a word-processor, a communications package, a spreadsheet, and a highly sophisticated database management system. I, for one, was highly impressed with both demonstrations.

The Leading Edge Model "D" seems to be a real computer bargain. One of our members has already purchased one, and is highly pleased with it. I helped him set up his system, and the more I use that keyboard, the more I like it!

Another feature of the meeting was the issuing of EXCHANGE, the IBM User-Support Newsletter. (We'll have a limited amount of these to pass out at the meeting each month.) Afterwards, club business was quickly dispatched, and the random-access portion of our meeting began. In all, it was an enjoyable evening.

CHANGE IN POLICY

By Rich Chambers

You can now call or write me and order the Public Domain Software disk that interests you for delivery at the next meeting. I'll copy the requested disk onto one of our NASHUA diskettes and have it ready for you at that time. Or--you may still drop over and have your copy made while we swap information about your favorite computer subjects. If you can't make the meetings and don't have a way to get to my place, call me anyhow. Between us, we can probably devise some method to get your selections to you.

CHANGE IN POLICY

(continued)

The cost is \$2.00 per diskette copied in this manner. This is a considerable savings over the old method (\$1.50 for just the copying of the software), because the \$2.00 gets you the software AND the new NASHUA Diskette.

If you have your own disks, we'll copy to your disks for \$1.50 per disk if you wish.

TECHNICAL WRITERS

We now have these writers contributing informational columns for our newsletter.

Rich Brown
Systems Analyst

Richard Chambers
Computer Consultant

Bob Flagg
Programmer/Analyst

Mike Hayhurst
Lead Systems Programmer

Mark McNee
Programmer/Technician

Allan Powell
Gameologist

Judy Robinett
Statehouse

Tim R. Wolf
Programmer

We are very fortunate to have these folks donating their expertise to our PC group.

Many members of our group are computer professionals. If you need help chances are there is someone here who can help you. We have consultants who offer discounts to group members.

OPORTUNITY FOR WRITERS

CLASSIFIED

IMA

Innovative Micro Assistance

Personal Computer Consulting and Software on Apple, IBM, PC/M, and related Micros. FREE Initial Discussion Session. Group members receive 10% off my customary fee. Contact:

RAY BOWYER (208) 345-2245
P. O. Box 2816 Boise, ID 83701

** FOR SALE **

HP-150 Personal Computer With "Magic Touch" Screen, 256K, 2 SSDD Disk Drives, 160 CPS Graphics Printer. Includes PAM & BASIC. New Condition, used less than 6 hours asking \$3400. Contact Gregg, 922-5664 (Kuna) or at the meetings.

*** FOR SALE ***

For the IBM or compatible:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. FAST GRAPH PKG | \$35.00 |
| 2. HOME ACCT. PLUS | 25.00 |
| 3. PERFECT CALC | 35.00 |
| 4. PERFECT FILER | 75.00 |
| 5. PERFECT WRITE/SPELL | 85.00 |
| 6. PERFECT LINK | 20.00 |
| 7. VOLKSMODEM 12 300/1200 | 210.00 |
| 8. IBM SERIAL CARD | 50.00 |
| 9. IBM PARALLEL CARD | 50.00 |

For the Apple or compatible:

1. SILENTYPE PRINTER W/CARD \$100.00
If interested in the IBM or Apple equipment, contact Dave Jameson at 386-6137 days or 376-2206 after work hours or weekends.

***** WANTED *****

Wish to purchase an expansion set for an IBM-PC Jr. Would like an additional 128K memory and a second disk drive. Please call Rick Barnes at 344-7914 during business hours.

Are you interested in being a co-author for a potential IBM book? Do you have a draft geared to business or other professionals? Do you have an idea for upgrading an existing IBM book? If so, contact Norma Vidinoff, 2253 Spinnaker Circle, Longmont, Colorado 80501 or call (303) 678-7534 between 6-7 PM.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY CHRISTMAS PORTRAIT SPECIAL

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------|------|
| 2 | 8x10 | @ \$15 ea | \$30 |
| 2 | 5x7 | \$10 ea | \$20 |
| 8 | wallets | \$10 /8 | \$10 |
| 25 | Christmas cards w/envelopes | | \$30 |
| | sitting fee | | \$35 |

Regular Price..... \$125

Christmas Portrait Special
Members cost (tax incl.)... \$59

Ed Riche Portraits 342-1546

***** FOR SALE *****

APPLE 80-COLUMN TEXT CARD for the Apple Ile, complete with documentation. Fits in Aux #3 slot. This is the small card with no additional memory aboard. \$40.00. Contact Rich Chambers 939-9120.

***** WANTED *****

Looking for an AST Six-Pac with 64K memory or less. Game Port not required. Contact Rich Brown at 386-5506 Days, or 322-7720 evenings.

**** COMPUTER SUPPLIES ****

Matrix Design is a local computer mail order company. They sell both software and hardware and normally offer computer supplies at 20% of list. They have offered our group a discount of 23% of list price. For more information contact Robert Young at (208)385-0383 or write to them at: Matrix Design
814 Mc Kinley Street
Boise, Idaho 83712

HALF PRICED HARDWARE AND SOFT

Gem State BBS

Learned Mahn, a local software development company, is selling some of the software and hardware that they have accumulated for half of what it cost. Some of this is BRAND NEW!

1. PCNet Hard & Software 2 stations
 2. Business Library G/L, A/P, A/R Librarian
 3. Metafile system plus A/R system
 4. Microsoft Pascal Compiler
 5. Champion - acctg. software
 6. Dataflex database
 7. Vision, applications manager and Calc, with no mouse
 8. Visi-Trend Plot
 9. Cyllock File Security System part hardware and software
- Interested parties can contact Bob Flagg at Learned Mahn at 336-2281.

Gem State Data Access, Idaho's largest Bulletin Board Service (BBS), has six special interest groups (SIGS). They are TRS, Apple, Atari, Commodore, Macintosh and our own IBM-PC. This is an excellent forum for exchanging information not to mention the fact that it is about the most inexpensive way there is to get software. For as little as \$1 per month you can get access to the Main Message board, the Joke board, all of the SIG boards, be allowed to leave FREE personal ads, and have between 40 and 50 programs available for downloading for the IBM-PC alone, not to mention programs for the TRS, Apple, Atari, Commodore and Macintosh computers. Have your computer give them a call at 375-2243.

LOCAL COMPUTER USER GROUPS

IDAHO IBM-PC USER GROUP (huray!)

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. at Borah High School in the B-wing, room 126. You can also reach us at Box 9136, Boise, Id 83707. For more information contact Bob Robles at 465-5116 (9 to 4) or at 342-7250 after 5:00.

MACINTOSH USER'S GROUP

Meets every last Thursday of each month at The Computer Store. Call Prodata 342-6878 ask for Gary Thomas or Joe Fugate.

COMPUTER USERS GROUP OF MAGIC VALLEY

Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. (a multi computer users group) For information call 734-5078

ATARI BOISE USERS GROUP

Meets the first Saturday of each month at Campus Elementary School on BSU Campus. Time - 1:00 pm. Phone 344-8773 or 362-5666

TRS/MS-DOS USERS GROUP

Contact James Estrada at the Karcher Mall Radio Shack 467-1066.

BOISE 99'ERS COMPUTER CLUB

Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computers. Meets second Tuesday of each month at Jerry Hough residence: 1331 Colorado, Boise. For info call 375-1968 Jeff Burkhardt

PC Boise Users Group

Call Silver Creek Computers for time and place at 322-5770 or write to PCBUG, Box 8266, Boise, Id 83707.

APPLE USER'S GROUP

Meets the last Wednesday of the month at Round Table Pizza, 7100 Fairview av. at 6:60 pm. For info call Gary Ackaret, 888-1203 or Roy Hedine 345-0278 Club address: 1411 S. Arcadia, Boise, Id 83705

TANDY 1000 USER GROUP

Contact Allen Powell at 385-0070 for details. Users of Tandy 1200 & especially the 2000 are welcome.

TREASURE VALLEY C-64 USER'S GROUP

Meets every 3rd Monday at Round Table Pizza on Fairview at 7:30 pm. Phone Evenings 336-9607 Mike Carter.